



For Immediate Release

23 March 2007

**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!**

AWD Chase de Vere scoops the Money Marketing Awards top accolade.

AWD Chase de Vere is delighted to have won the prestigious title of Money Marketing Financial Services Awards 2007, IFA of the Year.

The award comes three weeks into the tenure of new Chief Executive, Mike Kirsch.

**“I am thrilled to have joined a company that has achieved so much over the last year.”** Said Kirsch.

**“Being one of the few companies with a truly multi channel distribution capability, we offer our customers the convenience of being able to deal with us how and when they want – online, telephone and face to face. I am more excited than ever about what the future holds”** he added.

-ENDS-

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**Editor's note:**

**About AWD Group Plc**

With more than 37 years operating in the UK financial services market place, AWD Group Plc is today, one of the country's leading independent financial services groups. The growth of the business has been exceptional since its establishment in 1969. Originally Thomson's Financial Planning and operating from a single site in London, the Group now offers private and corporate client advisory services from 28 UK locations, through more than 400 advisers, placing its emphasis very much on the provision of a local, fully independent advice service. Offering clients the convenience of dealing with us how and when they choose; the confidence of dealing with highly qualified financial advisers; and the security associated with a reputable, financially secure business.



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#### **About AWD Holding AG**

In September 2001, the Group was acquired by AWD Holding AG and chose to reflect its parentage by re-branding from Thomson's to AWD in October 2004. In Europe, AWD Holding AG is the largest independent financial services group. Present in 10 countries, including Austria, Germany, Switzerland and the UK, AWD employs more than 5,900 highly qualified advisers in 462 representative offices, advising in excess of 1.74 million private clients, all working in accordance with our core business philosophy – to provide our clients with fully independent financial advice.

#### **About AWD Chase de Vere and AWD Moneyextra**

With the patronage of a large pan-European company, the UK business was able to expand its operation through a number of high profile acquisitions. Most significant of which was the purchase of Chase de Vere Financial Solutions Plc in March 2005.

A new 'multi-channel' offering for our clients: The acquisition of Chase de Vere Financial Solutions incorporated one of the UK's leading personal finance websites moneyextra.com, and allowed the Group to enhance the accessibility of its services by permitting clients to deal direct, online and over the phone.

Successive to the acquisition of Chase de Vere Financial Solutions Plc, the AWD Chase de Vere brand was launched on 3rd July 2006, representing the amalgamation of two of the UK's most respected providers of independent financial advice. As one, the combined businesses have more than 60 years experience in the financial services market place, employ over 1,100 staff, and advise in excess of 150,000 private clients and 2,000 corporate clients. Through our new AWD Chase de Vere Wealth Management and Consulting entities we are able to offer our clients access to market leading private and corporate client advisory services.